



Robert E. Bush
Naval Hospital

Did you know?...

You have the right to express your concerns about patient safety and quality of care.

There are several avenues open to you:

- * Through the ICE website.
- * The Hospital Customer Relations Officer at 760-830-2475, or any of the Customer Relations representatives in the Hospital clinics, or directly to the Joint Commission via:

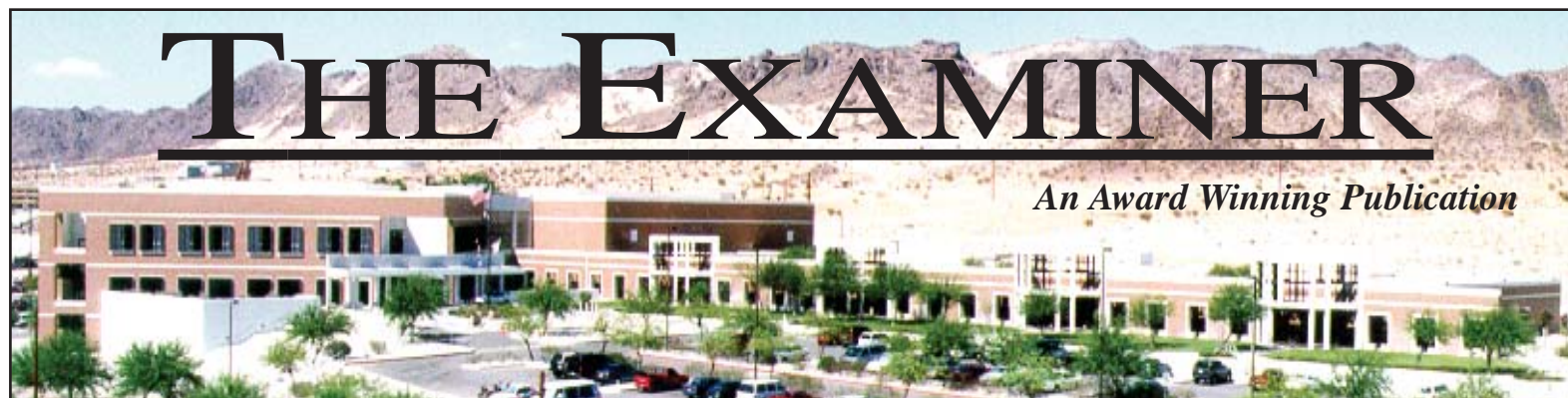
E-mail at complaint@jointcommission.org
Fax: 630-792-5636

The Joint Commission
Oak Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

To report Fraud, Waste and Abuse contact one of the below offices by calling:

Naval Hospital: 760-830-2344
Combat Center: 760-830-7749
NavMedWest: 1-877-479-3832
Medical IG: 1-800-637-6175
DoD IG: 1-800-424-9098

Commanding Officer
Naval Hospital Public Affairs Office
Box 788250 MAGTFC
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8250



<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhttp/pages/default.aspx>



NHTP celebrated its first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) appreciation month June 26. Fleet Master Chief (AW/SW) JoAnn Marie Ortloff was guest speaker. L-R: Senior Chief Kevin Bittinger, Fleet Master Chief Ortloff, Capt. Sandra Mason, HMI Stewart Duncan, Cmdr. Gary Grothe.

Your Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms Medical Homeport is realigning medical services. This realignment will allow us to operate more efficiently, maintain appointment availability and create a comprehensive medical home.

All primary care services (Pediatrics, Family Medicine, and Internal Medicine) will be merged into two multidisciplinary Medical Home Teams: Medical Homeport Blue, and Medical Homeport Gold. The phone number for providers, nurses and ancillary staff will remain unchanged.

If you are presently enrolled with a particular Pediatrician, you will be assigned to a Pediatric provider. If you are presently enrolled with a Family Practice Provider, you will continue with a Family Practitioner.

The benefit for NHTP patients includes increased appointment availability during periods of provider absence, as well as creating a place where adults and their children can be seen by providers on the same team. We hope this will create a more personal experience and enhance coordination of care. The consolidation of clinics also increases the number of phone clerks and medical assistants on each team, further streamlining care and enhancing communication. With this transition, there will be no interruption to your medical care.

This change is anticipated to occur the first week of July 2015. We will provide further information in the upcoming weeks as it pertains to your individual circumstance. We thank you for your patience during this transition and believe that it will lead to improved quality care provided to you and your family within the Medical Home.

Medical Home Means One-Stop Shop

By Cmdr. Kanti Ford,
Department Head, Adult
Medical Care Clinic, NHTP

What Does Marine Centered Medical Home Mean for a Marine?

In the past, a Marine's health-care was provided at the Battalion Aide Station (BAS).

The Marine would report to the infamous "sick call" and, depending on the time of day, would wait 10 minutes or several hours. If medications, imaging (x-rays, MRI, etc.), or lab work is required, he or she would be directed to another facility. In the past, these additional steps often weren't completed and medical care was compromised. With the implementation of the Marine Centered Medical Home (MCMH), the care provided to Marines will be from a medical team assigned to the Marine's unit. The team includes a general medical officer (GMO), an independent duty corpsman (IDC), a physician assistant (PA), and a hospital corpsman.

Appointments are scheduled at times convenient to the Marine, not first come-first served. The service member has access to

afterhours care or questions by using an email service called Relay Health. The Marine can now email his/her medical team a question and anticipate a prompt response. These are some of the layers that will contribute to Marines receiving the highest level of care.

The MCMH concept allows almost all of the Marine's healthcare needs to be met at one facility. One stop for the majority of medical issues reduces time away from the mission. This ultimately improves individual and unit medical readiness. Each Marine will be officially enrolled to his/her unit provider. When the Marine comes to the MCMH, every effort will be made for him/her to be seen by the assigned provider. A service member can schedule an appointment for the same-day or in the future. For example, a member planning to retire would schedule for a future appointment; while the service member who sprained his ankle during a unit run would be seen quickly. All ancillary services are provided in the same facility.

Please see Medical Home Port, Page 2

Patients seen in May -- 9,276

Appointment No Shows in May -- 800

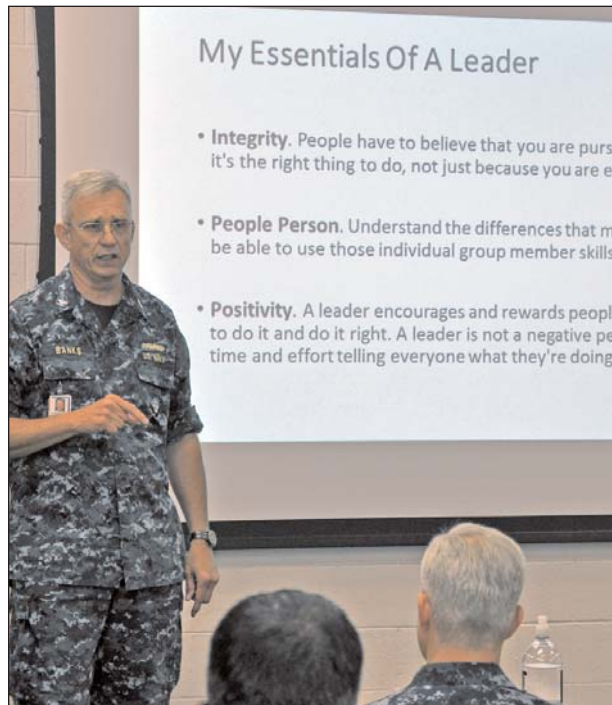
In May we had an 9.8 percent no-show rate. We need to keep trending downward by keeping the appointments we make, or by canceling in enough time for someone else to use the slot... To help patients obtain appointments, the Naval Hospital now shows the number of open appointment slots each day on the hospital Facebook site, check it out. On Facebook, search: Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms.

To make an appointment call -- 760-830-2752

To cancel an appointment call -- 760-830-2369



Hospitalman Third Class Derek Loughrey (right) reenlisted for three more years June 19. Reenlisting officer is Lt. Daryl Davenport, 3rd LAR. Loughrey, originally from Centerville, Md., has orders for Annapolis, Md.



Capt. Steven Banks presented the Brown Bag Lecture: "Leadership Styles and Traits" June 10. The well-attended lecture, from the NHTP Professional Development Committee, discussed honesty, professionalism and commitment. "The informative lecture left the audience with a clear understanding of different leadership styles and how to lead effectively," lecture organizer, Ms. Teresa Turbyfill said. Future lectures include, Writing the Officer Fitness Report.



Lt. Cmdr. Kimberly Whitehill is piped into retirement June 11 after 25 years in the Navy. Lt. Cmdr. Whitehill, a nurse practitioner, is originally from Ft. Worth, Texas. She departed immediately following the ceremony, for Prescott, Ariz.

Medical Home Port, continued from Page 1

ty. This is a change in paradigm that will improve the Marine's general health status and allow for risk-appropriate screenings and periodic health assessments that can be done quickly. The use of standardized clinical practice guidelines leads to earlier detection of disease, prompt treatment, and swift return to duty. The MCMH offers a full complement of services to include mental health, physical therapy, laboratory, radiology, and pharmacy--all under one roof. The ability to receive and conduct consults is enhanced by access to video teleconferencing.

Patients requiring admission to the hospital will have access to a provider with admitting privileges to review their case and determine if admission is war-

ranted. The Marine's BAS physicians now have an opportunity to collaborate with colleagues who work in the hospital and are better able to utilize assets. The myriad number of services, the access to consultants, the timeliness of healthcare all contribute to the creation of a culture of wellness and readiness-- two factors paramount to our enterprise's long-term success. The MCMH means better healthcare for the individual Marine and for the Marine Corps.

The MCAGCC Marine Centered Medical Homeport, an \$18.7 million, 45,000 sq. ft. medical facility is already under construction. It is being built behind the current Adult Medical Care Facility and is scheduled to open in November 2015. The current AMCC will be razed and paved over for a parking lot.

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The Examiner welcomes your comments and suggestions concerning the publication. Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month for the following month's edition. Any format is welcome, however, the preferred method of submission is by e-mail or by computer disk.

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Trying to kick the habit and become tobacco free?
Feeling stressed and overwhelmed?
Have trouble sleeping?

The hospital's Health Promotion and Wellness Program offers one on one assistance. For more information call 760-830-2814

Preventive Medicine Corner

Submit Questions/Concerns and Tanya Will Provide Answers



Tanya Stuckey

Dear Tanya,
I've enjoyed some of the recipes you've posted in the past. I understand July is Fruit and Vegetable Month. I think it would be really great if you posted some healthy eating recipes featuring fruit and vegetables. And since the temperatures in our area are already in excess of 100 degrees, it would be great if you could offer recipes that don't involve the oven or stove. And not to be needy, but do you think you could give us an overview of why it's important to incorporate fruit and vegetable into our diets? I love everything you do! Thanks so much!
Signed,

--Wanting to Stay Cool

Dear Cool,

Thank you for your kind words! I would love to address the benefits of consuming a variety of fruits and vegetables. From disease prevention and weight control to workout recovery, there are many reasons to incorporate colorful produce into your diet. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) suggests that at least half our plate be covered with fruits and vegetables at each meal.

Nature has even supplied us with a color-coding system that guides us to select the proper nutrients that our bodies need. I have included examples found on the Navy Marine Corps Public Health website:

YELLOW: Optimizes brain functions and maintains healthy skin (Yellow peppers, squash, sweet corn)

GREEN: Rejuvenates muscles and bones and helps fight cancer (Spinach, avocado, broccoli, green leafy vegetables, kiwi).
ORANGE: Supports skin and respiratory and digestive tracts and boosts the immune system (Apricot, nectarine, cantaloupe, carrots, papaya).
RED: Supports the heart and circulatory function (Cherries, cranberries, strawberries, red onions, tomatoes).
WHITE: Enhances the immune and lymph systems and helps cellular recovery (Banana, garlic, ginger, mushroom, onion).
PURPLE: Promotes circulation through the tiniest vessels in the body and fights disease (Blackberry, blueberry, plum, eggplant, grapes).

Be sure you familiarize yourself with serving sizes so you get the maximum benefit without overindulging. Even when eating healthy, it is possible to get too much of a good thing.

Remember that even healthy foods have calories and sugars. One large orange, apple, banana or ear of corn is a serving. That is easy since they are pre-packaged for us, but what about other foods that come in larger portions? Twelve baby carrots, 10 broccoli florets, one cup or 32 grapes, for instance, are individual serving sizes.

Now for the easy, no cook recipes; I have included a couple of my favorites! The heat of the summer months increases fruit consumption and leaves our vegetable recipes for the colder months. So in these recipes, I am focusing on how to get creative with your vegetables. I don't want to leave anyone out, so I have one for veggie lovers and one for the veggie avoiders.

Zucchini Pasta

8 ounces cherry tomatoes, sliced
1 clove garlic, thinly sliced
1/4 cup pine nuts (or any chopped raw nuts)
2 tablespoons basil
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
Sea salt
1 zucchini, thinly sliced lengthwise, slices cut into 1/4-inch-long strips

In a bowl, combine tomatoes, garlic, nuts, basil, and oil. Lightly season with salt. Let stand 20 minutes. Toss with zucchini and garnish with additional vegetables of your choice.

Finally, the easiest and quickest way to get vegetables when you love the color green, but struggle with the "green" flavor? Try carrot, mango, papaya, strawberries and add some mild greens like spinach or baby kale. Baby kale is much milder than other versions and blends well with your fruit smoothies!

Tropical Smoothie

1/2 cup frozen banana
1/4 cup frozen mango
Handful of fresh spinach and or chopped carrots
1 cup almond, coconut or cow's milk
2 tablespoons chia seeds, flax seed or raw nuts
2 ice cubes
Pinch of unsweetened coconut (optional)

Blend together and enjoy!

Remember, there are lots of ways to get in your fruits and vegetables without having a boring salad every day. Spice it up! Add lean meats, nuts, cheese, berries or quinoa. When adding dressing, keep it low-fat and watch your portion size here too! Want more great recipes? Check out our *Health and Wellness Area* in the NHTP pharmacy hallway. We have even started a coupon exchange to make healthy choices more affordable. Bring in coupons for healthy options you aren't going to use and switch them out for the health items you want.



Waiting for BBQ at the Enlisted Barracks June 26.

But It's a Dry Heat...

As we greet the summer months here in the desert, we are relieved to find that 90-100 degrees in Twentynine Palms is far more bearable than in humid areas. Don't be fooled by the occasional breeze or shelter from the direct rays; there are still safety measures to consider.

Life in the desert doesn't stop just because of the warmer weather. Marines, Sailors and athletes still train, outdoor work must be done and errands are still necessary. Wear and re-apply SPF 15+ sunscreen and sunglasses with UVA and UVB protection when exposed to the sun all year round. Limit outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day and be aware of the flag conditions.

Preventive Medicine staff at NHTP is responsible for our local readings and reports. It's important to note that some of these flag conditions have extremely narrow 2-3 degree ranges. That means that temperatures can rise from yellow to black more quickly than the flag station operator's observation interval. It is also essential to always keep in mind that extreme conditions can lead to serious health problems.

Flag guidance:

White flag: Extremely intense physical output may precipitate heat injury. Caution should be taken.

Green flag: Heavy exercise for un-acclimated personnel should be conducted with caution and under responsible supervision.

Yellow flag: Strenuous exercise and activity should be curtailed

for all personnel with less than three weeks training in hot weather.

Red flag: Strenuous exercise curtailed for all personnel with less than 12 weeks training in hot weather

Black flag: Physical training and strenuous exercise suspended for all personnel (excluding operational commitments).

Proper hydration and staying cool are a priority. Be sure you keep a bottle of water with you when you are out and about.

When working outdoors for longer periods of time, wear loose, light-weight clothing and avoid alcohol or liquids containing high amounts of sugar. Two to four cups of water every hour is the recommendation by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). If you are thirsty, that is a sign that you are already dehydrated.

Seniors, children and pets are at increased risk. Never leave children in a parked car or allow them to play outdoors where uncovered feet can be burned by hot sand or concrete.

Check out the on-base activities, city happenings and special ITT deals at Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) located inside the main exchange. Anyone who says this place is boring and that there is nothing to do, hasn't explored the options that are at our fingertips. Ask and Learn!

2X3
Smith's Family
Properties

Super Stars...



Capt. Angela Nimmo is awarded, from the President of the United States, the Meritorious Service Medal "for outstanding meritorious service as Executive Officer, NHTP, from July 2013 to June 2015. Capt. Nimmo performed her duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. She distinguished herself through exceptional vision and leadership in the provision of high-quality healthcare to 52,000 beneficiaries. She led the command through a successful 2015 joint commission re-accreditation survey and guided the accreditation of three medical home port teams and a new 45,000 square foot clinic housing the first Marine-centered Medical Home on Base. Her proactive, focused approach led to the recapture of private sector emergency care and her resolute devotion to operational medicine missions was repeatedly evidenced in the deployment of 34 command staff in support of overseas contingency operations and humanitarian missions, during which the command also completed 369,168 patient encounters. Enhancing technology and care, she implemented a 24/7 Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program that was the first in the DoD to include a pilot tele-nursing project which expanded expertise and provided victims the ability to remain in the military environment for care. The exceptional professional ability, steadfast initiative, and selfless dedication to duty exhibited by Capt. Nimmo reflect great credit upon herself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. For the president, Bruce L. Gillingham Rear Adm., MC, USN



Cmdr. Thomas Baldwin is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal "for meritorious service or achievement while serving as staff, internal medicine physician, Patient Centered Medical Home Blue Team, NHTP, from August 2013 to July 2015. Cmdr. Baldwin brought specialized capabilities through supplemental privileging and special operations physicals that collectively led to \$40,000 cost savings and increased medical readiness for service-members Base wide. His leadership resulted in the successful Command Inspection by the Joint Commission and Medical Inspector General. Cmdr. Baldwin's distinctive accomplishments, unrelenting perseverance, and steadfast devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

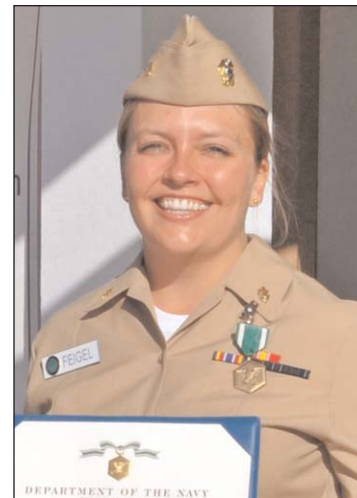


Lt. Cmdr. Ronald Dewees is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal "for meritorious service while serving as Department Head, Staff Education and Training, NHTP, from Aug. 2012 to Jul. 2015. Lt. Cmdr. Dewees coordinated the training of over 2,000 personnel while increasing compliance from 71 to 97 percent. He provided exemplary

management of five programs with zero recommendations for improvement from the Joint Commission and Medical Inspector General survey. He also performed and directed 20 command investigations, 42 non-judicial punishments, 17 administrative separations and 125 notarial acts. Lt. Cmdr. Dewees' distinctive accomplishments, unrelenting perseverance, and steadfast devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."



Lt. Ryan Blevins is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal "for meritorious service while serving as Staff Nurse, Emergency Dept., NHTP, from June 2013 to June 2015. Lt. Blevins led 10 staff in improving the compliance with general military training from 60 percent to 95 percent within the first four months of assuming leadership of the command training team. He merged required military training with Navy pride and professionalism and facilitated training of 220 staff members. As Emergency Department Patient Relations Officer, he improved patient satisfaction from 34 percent to 95 percent. Lt. Blevins' distinctive accomplishments, unrelenting perseverance, and steadfast devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."



Lt. Cmdr. Amanda Feigel is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal "for meritorious service while serving as General Surgeon, General Surgery Dept., NHTP, from July 2013 to June 2015. Lt. Cmdr. Feigel performed 280 colon cancer screenings saving \$308,000 in purchased-care costs and propelling the command to meet the national healthcare effectiveness data information set benchmark of 75 percent. As TeamSTEPPS physician champion, she implemented training for 97 percent of staff and led the Infection Prevention Committee through a successful Joint Commission survey. Lt. Cmdr. Feigel's distinctive accomplishments, unrelenting perseverance, and steadfast devotion to duty reflect great credit upon herself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."



Hospitalman Ronel Dalisay is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal "for professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving as General Duty Corpsman, Medical Home Gold Team, NHTP, from Dec. 2013 to June 2015. HN Dalisay led four sailors and assisted four providers as act-

ing leading petty officer in the completion of 162 medical procedures and 8,033 patient encounters. He executed a project improvement plan placing 20 hallway mirrors in six clinics to improve the safe movement of staff and patients. He assisted in enrolling 176 patients in Relay Health contributing to a six percent enrollment increase. HN Dalisay's personal initiative, perseverance and unswerving devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."



Master-at-Arms Petty Officer First Class Steven Adams is awarded a Flag Letter of Commendation (FLOC) "for outstanding performance of duties while serving as Leading Petty Officer, Operations Management Dept., NHTP, from Jan. 2015 to Mar. 2015. Throughout this period Petty Officer Adams consistently performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner, culminating in his selection as Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms' Senior Sailor of the Quarter for the Second Quarter, FY 2015. His enthusiasm and contributions epitomize the Navy Medical Department's motto, "World class care... anytime, anywhere" and provides tangible evidence of the vital role that the enlisted community plays in today's Navy. Petty Officer Adams' exceptional professional ability and loyal devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. I take great pleasure in commending him for a job 'well done.'" [signed] B.L. Gillingham Rear Adm., Medical Corps, United States Navy



Hospital Corpsman Second Class Jennifer Rand is awarded a Flag Letter of Commendation (FLOC) “for outstanding performance of duties while serving as Assistant Leading Petty Officer, Emergency Dept., NHTP, from Jan. 2015 to Mar. 2015. Throughout this period Petty Officer Rand consistently performed her duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner, culminating in her selection as Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms’ Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the Second Quarter, FY 2015. Her enthusiasm and contributions epitomize the Navy Medical Department’s motto, ‘World class care... anytime, anywhere’ and provides tangible evidence of the vital role that the enlisted community plays in today’s Navy. Petty Officer Rand’s exceptional professional ability and loyal devotion to duty reflect great credit upon herself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. I take great pleasure in commending her for a job ‘well done.’” [signed] B.L. Gillingham Rear Adm. Medical Corps, USN



Hospitalman Tyler Hilborne is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for outstanding performance of duties while serving as General

Duty Corpsman, Maternal Infant Nursing Dept., NHTP, from Jan. 2015 to Mar. 2015. Throughout this period HN Hilborne consistently performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner, culminating in his selection as Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms’ Blue Jacket of the Quarter for the Second Quarter, FY 2015. His enthusiasm and contributions epitomize the Navy Medical Department’s motto, ‘World class care... anytime, anywhere,’ and provides tangible evidence of the vital role the enlisted community plays in today’s Navy. HN Hilborne’s exceptional professional ability and loyal devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. I take great pleasure in commending him for a job ‘well done.’” [signed] B.L. Gillingham Rear Adm. Medical Corps, USN

The following personnel have been frocked and are entitled to assume the title and wear the uniform of Petty Officer Second Class:



Culinary Specialist Second Class Darius Joseph



Yeoman Second Class Faiafuloto Nadore



Hospitalman Second Class Bobby Ragan



Hospitalman Second Class Aaron Sheppard

The following personnel have been frocked and are entitled to assume the title and wear the uniform of Petty Officer Third Class:



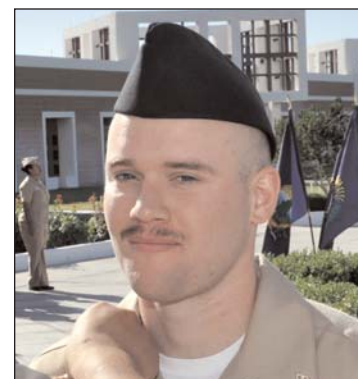
Hospital Corpsman Third Class Dillon Ohair



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Andrea Wilmot



Hospitalman Third Class Thomas Hanson



Hospital Third Class Frederick Koehler



Culinary Specialist Third Class Ashley Lostal



Hospital Corpsman Third Class John Macpherson



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Jaimey Monroe



Hospitalman Third Class Shardonnae Collier



Hospitalman Third Class Jefferson Bragado



Hospitalman Third Class Ronel Dalisay



Hospitalman Third Class Gabriel Donahue



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Jacob Mayhall

Introducing New Staff -- Welcome Aboard!



Mr. Mathie Henderson

Mr. Mathie Henderson is freshly arrived from San Diego where he worked as a coder for the Scripts Health System and Family Health Centers of San Diego. He's worked as a research technologist for National Naval Medical Center Bethesda. Mr. Henderson was born in Clarkdale, Miss., but traveled to Twentynine Palms from Raleigh, N.C, where he attended graduate school and taught healthcare administration and coding at Wake Tech Community College and Durham Technical Community College. He holds a Master's degree in Adult and Community College Education and a PhD. in General Education. Mr. Henderson loves music. He's a bass player in a country western band called, The Silver Spurs. He also enjoys chess, but more often than not plays with the computer rather than a warm body.



Ms. Allison Rogers

Ms. Allison Rogers is NHTP's newest contract reference test clerk. She arrives at NHTP by way of China Lake, but not the medical clinic, rather, the Naval Weapons Air Station, where she worked as an electronics technician for the Weapons Prototype Division. Hometown is Ridgecrest, Calif. Ms. Rogers is a college junior with a concentration in Marketing Communications. She's already gained an appreciation and fondness for the NHTP campus. "I love it here," she said. "It's beautiful. There are a lot of resources; it's really well kept. And it seems like a tight-knit community, which is really nice." For hobbies, Mr. Rogers enjoys reading, watching Harry Potter movies "and playing with my dog," Jarvis, the six-month-old German Sheppard. Ms. Rogers wants to eventually work in marketing, advertising or public relations.



Ms. Brigitte Baca

Ms. Brigitte Baca actually began work in February in the NHTP housekeeping department but is in training, in a temporary status, for the NHTP Quarterdeck receptionist position (following Mr. Beven Webb's recruitment into Referral Management). Originally from Chino Hills, Calif., Ms. Baca served as a Hospitalman in Jacksonville, Fla. "I loved it," she said of her time in the Jacksonville Med Center Urology Department. Ms. Baca lives in Twentynine Palms with her two cats, Beau and Clyde, a five-year-old siberian lynx point. "I am very excited to be taking over Mr. Beven's spot. It's such a privilege. It's a temporary position for 120 days. But there's the potential it could become permanent," she said. Ms. Baca intends to finish her Business Administration degree. Hobbies include crafts and woodworking.



HM3 Eric Mosey

HM3 Eric Mosey has been in the Navy five years. Hometown is Denver, Colo. He's recently arrived from the USS Bon Homme Richard where he was a general duty corpsman. Previous to that assignment, he was a GDC at Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla., where he performed administrative duties for the Surgery Dept. HM3 Mosely has aspirations to be a radiation-health officer in the Medical Service Corps and towards that end plans to research officer and education programs that will allow him to achieve that goal. At NHTP he'll be working in Family Medicine. The single sailor currently resides in the barracks but plans to find a place in town. HM3 Mosely enjoys hiking, biking, "really any kind of sports. I also play some video games here and there," he said. "But I mainly just like to be outside." Preferred music includes alternative rock.



Ms. Amanda Cervantes

Many will recognize Ms. Amanda Cervantes who left NHTP recently as a Hospital Corpsman First Class and who is now returning as a civilian, back to her old section. Ms. Cervantes has been hired to input data for the Public Health Industrial Hygiene department. "It's actually quite comforting to return in civilian clothes to the place you left in uniform," Ms. Cervantes remarked. "It's like I never left. I just get to wear what I want." Amanda is married to HM1 Raul Cervantes, currently assigned to NHTP Orthopedics. She's is originally from Hallotsville, Texas, and met Raul at her 16th birthday celebration. She's also begun work on her Master's in Healthcare Administration through the University of New England. Amanda enjoys writing poetry, cooking and spending time with family. Her favorite dish is chicken cacciatore.



Lt. Cmdr. Philip Sherrick, NHTP Occupational Therapist, receives help with his new shoulder boards from daughter, Lilly, during his promotion ceremony to his present rank June 15. Sherrick, originally from Keene, N.H., has been in the military 25 years, six years in the Navy.



Hospitalman First Class Chris Queen is piped into retirement with his parents 12 June following a retirement ceremony at the MCAGCC Fair Winds Golf Course. Queen has been in the Navy 20 years. He was the LPO for NHTP's Preventive Medicine Department. Originally from Frankfort, Ohio, Queen will eventually rejoin his wife, Maricel, in the Philippines. (Photo by Alex Hogan)



Hospital Corps'117th Birthday Celebrated at Pechanga

The 117th Corpsman Birthday Ball was celebrated at the Pechanga Resort and Casino June 12. Approximately 120 Corpsmen from NHTP and the Green Side journeyed to the casino resort in Temecula where they enjoyed a fine meal and dancing. A ceremony recognizing their fallen comrades from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom was conducted under a projection screen showing each fallen Corpsmen while sailors from NHTP and the Green Side hung dogtags, 53 of them, on a display consisting of boots, an M-16 and a combat helmet. Guest speaker was Cmdr. Porter Halyburton, USN (Ret), who spoke about his five and a half year confinement as a prisoner of war in the "Hanoi Hilton" during the Vietnam conflict. NHTP Hospital Commander Capt. John Lamberton made the opening remarks and Hospitalman First Class James Frymire was master of ceremonies.



Capt. John Lamberton during cocktail hour with Cmdr. Porter Halyburton, Marty Halyburton and fellow officers.



Fallen Corpsmen from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom were honored during the birthday celebration.



Above: Corpsman Oath is recited. Far left: NHTP Commanding Officer Capt. John Lamberton makes opening remarks. Middle: Fifty-three dogtags from fallen Corpsmen are hung on memorial. Right: HM1 James Frymire (left) and fellow Corpsman recite oath.



HM1 Dennis Roxas takes to the dance floor to show how it's done.



Cmdr. Porter Halyburton and Command Master Chief Carol Merricks pose with commemorative plaque.

Ad